ber have been duly considered by the Government in consultation with the oil industry. The Government is of the view that effective implementation of the Committee's recommendations, wherever feasible and practical, will help provide better service to LPG consumers. Several of the recommendations are accordingly already under implementation;

(b) Oil Companies are marketing LPG in urban and semi-urban area besides rural areas contiguous to towns/cities. Further, with a view to protecting the country's forest resources, LPG facility is being extended to selected hilly/desert areas. Besides, progressive increase in the allocation of kerosene oil to states and Union Territories is being made to enable the fuel needs of the people, including those residing in or close to forests, to be met better;

(c) No estimate in this regard has been made by the Ministry of Environment and forests, which is the concerned administrative Ministry.

Inter-Ministerial group for Coal supplies to power plants

471.SHRID.B.CHANDREGOWDA:

SHRI HAVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently set up an inter-ministerial group to coordinate and ensure regular and adequate coal supplies to power plants in the country;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the group; and

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered by power plants due to non-supply of adequate coal during the last three years and what other steps Government propose to take to ensure coal supplies to power plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal supply to power stations in the country is monitored by Central Government and priority is accorded to supply of coal to the power sector. A Standing Linkage Cornmittee functions in the department of Coal with representatives of Department of Coal, Department of Power, Ministry of Railways, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Coal Companies which decides linkages on quarterly basis. Supply of coal to power stations is monitored closely by Coal lndia Limited, Ministry of Railways and Departments of Coal and Power, and CEA in order to ensure that adequate supplies of coal are available with the power stations to maintain the level of generation required. By and large the position in regard to supply of coal to power stations in the country has been satisfactory and thermal generation in three years from 1985-86 has exceeded the targets. H

A special Inter-Ministerial Group was set up by the Department of Coal to co-ordinate and ensure adequate and regular coal supplies tc thermal power stations in the country as a part of Action Plan to builc adequate coal stocks with the powei stations in view of the 6-day striki call toy workers in coal industry fron 15-3-1988.

The Group comprised representatives of Ministry of Kailways, Departments of Coal and Power, Coal India limited and the Central Electricity Authority.

Delay in implementation of Karnal and Mangalore refinery projects

*472. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inordinate delay and inefficient im plementation of Karnal and Manga-
• efinery projects, the refinery capacity of 9 million tonnes, which was earlier expected to be realised by the end of the current plan period is now likely to be available only during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in thi$_s$ regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRl BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government had proposed during the VI Plan the setting up of two grass root refineries at Karnal and Mangalore. However, during the exercises made for provisions for these projects in the Vllth Plan, it was found that serious resource constraints were coming i$_n$ the way of taking up these two projects in the pubic sector. It has therefore been decided to take up these in the joint sector, with suitable private parties.

2. The Kamal Refinery is expected to be commissioned in 1992-93. A detailed project report is being prepared for the Mangalore Refinery. Investment decision on this will be taken after the DPR is ready.

Explosion at industrial explosive manufacturing unit near Cochin

*473. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY;

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten-
been drawn to the news-item which appeared lin thhe Hindustan dated the 6th March, 1988 . •in it has been stated that ten •: were charred to death when a chemical they were handling at an industrial explosive manufacturing unit near Cochin accidentally exploded;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter and what action has been taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ten women were killed in an explosion in a gunpowder/fire-works factory at Kadakoodam in Nadama Village near Thripunithura on 5-3-1988. The pounding and mixing shed of the factory was also raized to the ground.

(c) The accident is being investigated by the Controller of Explosives, Ernakulam, under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Madras. The licence granted to the factory for the manufacture of fireworks/gunpowder has been suspended by the Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives, Madras on 7-3-88. The Police have filed a ease under the relevant provisions of law.